Nativity Story

Starts with a child/ some children in pyjamas, sat up ‘in bed’, centre stage. All of the children’s parts can be combined to be said by just 1 child talking to the audience if preferred or divided differently for 2, 3, 4 or ultimately 5 children as I have written it. Alternatively, a narrator can use the italics to tell the story while the children just ’mime/act’ to it.

| Narrator | Hello and welcome to everyone here  
It’s lovely to see you at this time of year.  
I’m sure, there’s no doubt that you all know the reason  
For our celebrations at this special season.  

It’s not about presents, or parties or fun  
Or family games, when all’s said and done.  
They do have some value; they all have their worth  
But none is as special as Jesus’s birth.  

So now as we start our nativity play  
We have a clear message to give you today….  
We start as the children are sat up in bed  
(When each of them should have been sleeping instead!) |
| Notes | Can also say all the other children’s lines if necessary. |

| Child 1 (to audience)  
Use italics if you need the narrator to say this, or (I) if you only have 1 child. | It’s the night before Christmas and we should be snoring  
(they/he/she)  
Normally we would, because bedtime is boring!  
(they/he/she)  
But how can we sleep when we know(s) Christmas Day  
(they/he/she)  
(they/he/she)  
Is quickly approaching? It’s well on its way!  

Child 2 (to child 3) | How can I sleep when I’m waiting to see  
If anyone has any presents for me?  

Child 3 (to child 1)  
Use italics if you need narrator to say this, or (me I, and my) if you only have 1 child. | Mum told us we shouldn’t get overexcited  
(him he/ her she)  
Getting excitable |
| Notes | Or omit if no child speakers |

| Child 4 (excitedly to other children)  
Use italics if you want the narrator to say this | I really love Christmas. The presents are great.  
(Teys/he/she)  

Child 5 | I can’t get to sleep and it’s getting quite late.  

Child 4 (or narrator) to audience  
(Use italics if preferred)  
(St Nich ’las is) | I’m sure I can hear some sleigh bells. Can you?  
I think Santa’s coming. Wey hey! Woo hoo!  
(St Nich ’las is)  

Child 5 (or narrator)  
(Use italics if preferred) | Shhh….I hear laughter, that’s Santa you know….  
(Saint Nich ’las)  
I’m sure I just heard a “Ho Ho Ho!”  

Everything continues in rhyme…..  

This is completely flexible so that you could use the narrators’ lines whilst children mime, or you could have just one child speak everything, or have up to 5 children speak the parts as they are individually apportioned here. Even better, the options are easy to pick up and use if anyone is ill on the day and you need to make changes.  
Child 4 and 5 make reference to Santa/St Nicholas, but this can omitted without affecting the flow of the play  

Can be omitted  
Everyone gets excited  

(Other children could maybe join in cheers)
Rudolf comes on centre stage pulling a ‘sleigh.’ (A decorated cardboard box will be fine, with some reins at the front for Rudolf to pull and some at the back for Santa to hold.) Maybe have a chair behind it for Santa to sit on, or Santa can just stand behind it. Santa comes on carrying a sack saying “Ho, Ho, Ho”, then puts it in the ‘sleigh’, sits/stands behind it and picks up the reins.

Everyone sings the Ho Ho Ho song with Santa…

**Ho Ho Ho (Santa’s Song)** (Santa scene and song is optional)

**Chorus**

Ho, ho, ho, Ho, ho, ho, Santa’s on his way.............Ho, ho, ho, Ho, ho, ho. Riding on his sleigh!
Ho, ho, ho, Ho, ho, ho, Rudolf’s nose is bright.........Ho, ho, ho, Ho, ho, ho, guiding through the night.

I really love this time of year,  
I love to bring some happy cheer,  
To all the children far and near…

**I LOVE THIS TIME OF YEAR**

Repeat Chorus

The sleigh is filled with lots of toys  
To take to all the girls and boys  
I’m sure they’ll make a happy noise…

**I LOVE THIS TIME OF YEAR**

Chorus

Santa and Rudolf disappear out of sight and the children get back to being excited in the bedroom.

Notes

- **Narrator**  
  Use italics if only have 1 child.

Now, outside the bedroom where no-one is sleeping  
Their Grandpa is listening, and slowly he’s creeping:  
(His/her)

Grandpa discovers the children are still awake and chastises them, while they reiterate how excited they are. The whole conversation is still written in rhyme and rhythm.

Again, this entire part is flexible so that children/ a child can mime while the narrator speaks, or 1 or more children can have speaking parts.

This is the last part of the script that Grandpa speaks in rhyme and rhythm. From now on he has his script enclosed within a ‘pretend book’ (the front cover of which is included to print off) and he reads it as a bedtime story, as shown below.

To help you calm down and get some rest.  
Now get back in bed and I’ll read you a story  
That tells you, at Christmas, who should get the glory.

Grandpa’s Nativity Story Copyright Angela Yardy 2011  
Buy from [www.bestchildrensnativity.com](http://www.bestchildrensnativity.com)
The story starts a long time ago, in a far away place, when a Roman Emperor called Caesar Augustus was ruling over all the people. He didn’t care how poor the people were, he was determined to make sure that no-one escaped his taxes, so he sent his soldiers to make a special announcement.

Roman Soldier
(For a smaller cast someone could double up and play this part extra, or Grandpa could read this)

Hear ye, hear ye; listen to me
Caesar Augustus has made a decree
All of his people, that’s everyone here
And all of the empire, far and near.

Soldier, shouting bossily and reading from a scroll

So all of you, get packed, and set off at dawn!

[Dialogue between Roman Soldier and Mary and Joseph]

The script then continues as Grandpa reads his story and Mary and Joseph walk to Bethlehem (page 5), accompanied by my very easily remembered travelling song (Bethlehem, Bethlehem, So Far Away) to the tune of a well known children’s song in the public domain called “Oranges and Lemons.”

Music is provided at the end of the script.

Mary and Joseph set off on their journey to Bethlehem (with donkey if possible) while all the children sing the next song (Bethlehem, Bethlehem) to the tune of Oranges and Lemons:

**Bethlehem, Bethlehem (So Far Away)**

Bethlehem, Bethlehem, so far away.
I hope when we get there, there’s somewhere to stay.
    How long must we be so tired and weary?

I hope when we get there, there’s somewhere to stay.
    How long must we be so tired and weary?

All of my songs are deliberately repetitive with a simple rhyme pattern so that they are easily remembered.

All of my songs are deliberately repetitive with a simple rhyme pattern so that they are easily remembered.

Samples of the music can be heard on the website, and FREE midi files are included in the package, together with sheet music.

Grandpa’s Nativity Story Copyright Angela Yardy 2011
Buy from www.bestchildrensnativity.com
Grandpa (Reading from the book.)

So after a long journey, Mary and Joseph finally arrived at Bethlehem, tired and weary, and started to search for somewhere to stay.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joseph</th>
<th>Knock, knock. Hello. Is anyone there? We need a room. Do you have one spare?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Innkeeper 1 (or omit)</td>
<td>Don’t bother asking, please go away! We haven’t got any rooms left today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innkeeper 2 (or innkeeper 4)</td>
<td>(Closes door)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph (use italics if talking to same innkeeper)</td>
<td>Mary and Joseph arrive and Joseph repeats a rhyming couplet as he knocks on each door, and the innkeepers reply with a different rhyming couplet each. Again, this is adaptable so that you can omit, or double up parts, concluding with innkeeper 4 who shows Joseph to the stable. The birth of Jesus is symbolised in the one verse of the simple song below, sung to the well known tune of “O Christmas Tree”. (Extra verses are used in the same way later to introduce the shepherds and the wise men to the stable scene.) Pages 7 &amp; 8 tell the story of the shepherds’ encounter with the angel in the field, and include a lovely, gentle angel chorus (“Angels’ Hallelujah”) with ideas of how to incorporate a simple angel dance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innkeeper 3 (or innkeeper 4)</td>
<td>(Closes door)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph (Use italics if pester ing same innkeeper)</td>
<td>You’re welcome to use it. That’s up to you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innkeeper 4</td>
<td>(Josephs shrugs shoulders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>We’re desperate, so even a stable will do! Come on now Mary, let’s get you some rest I know it’s not great, but I have done my best.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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So Mary and Joseph settled down for the night in the stable, and while they were there the time came for the baby to be born. He was a beautiful baby boy. Mary called him Jesus, as an angel had told her this was to be His name. She wrapped Him in a cloth, and laid Him in a manger.

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*All the other children sing the 1st verse of*

**In Bethlehem, a Babe Was Born** (the tune of “O Christmas Tree”)

*In Bethlehem a babe was born, and Mary called Him Jesus In Bethlehem a babe was born, and Mary called Him Jesus. And in a manger for His bed, the baby Jesus laid His head. In Bethlehem, a babe was born, and Mary called Him Jesus.*

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**Grandpa’s Nativity Story** Copyright Angela Yardy 2011

Buy from [www.bestchildrensnativity.com](http://www.bestchildrensnativity.com)
Star walks on centre stage and stands above/ in front of the stable. The wise men partly follow reading books, and point to the star from the side of the stage. After a few moments the star opens his/her arms and begins to speak.

Star

(If you have no star the narrator can say this using italics, and the wise men just mime to the narration)

The wise men are clever, to them it is clear
(were) (was)
Just what it means now I’ve arrived here.
(meant when the bright star appeared)

The story continues through pages 10 & 11 with the wise men travelling to the stable (having realised Herod’s real plan, hence not returning to him), and Grandpa finishing the bible based story.

The focus returns to the Christmas Eve children’s bedtime scene where the children settle down to sleep and Grandpa closes his book and the script returns completely to rhyme and rhythm.

The narrator (and child/children’s lines if appropriate) continue on page 12, which includes the optional “Santa’s Song” to sing whilst the presents are set out under the tree.

The nativity concludes by singing a Happy Birthday song to Jesus to the tune of “We Wish you a Merry Christmas”, followed by a bonus “Nativity Roll Call” for the cast to perform together.

Herod is in his palace, when the wise men walk on stage pointing to the star, as if following it, then stop at Herod’s palace and he shakes their hands and beckons to invite them in. They sit around him and pretend to chat to him briefly then he begins to speak....

Herod (to the wise men)

A baby who will be the king of the Jews:
Please tell me more, this is fantastic news!

Wise man 1
(can have 1 wise man speaking all parts if preferred)

We saw His star, so special and bright
We came from the East and followed the light

Wise man 2

We’ve journeyed so long, but we’ve not far to go
We’ll find Him, then come back, and let you know.

Wise man 3 (can omit these lines if preferred)

If you want to go to Him, we’ll find out where
Then we can tell you so that you can go there.

The wise men walk off stage, leaving King Herod centre stage, and attention comes back to the children with Grandpa

Child 1 (Italics can be missed out if necessary)

This story’s amazing, please carry on!
What did he say when the wise men had gone?
Casting List

The script is deliberately adaptable so that you can miss out characters and some lines without spoiling the flow, so if you need to reduce it, or any individual’s lines, you will find that you are able to omit some blocks of script entirely as you choose. Everything is written in rhyming couplets which need to be maintained, so wherever there are variables according to cast size or gender or reductions to the script I have offered alternatives to rhyming couplets that would be affected, and these are in italics throughout. (By all means contact me if you need any other options and I will try to assist)

Therefore, the casting list below is complete for anyone who chooses to use the script exactly as it is written, but each of the characters that can be omitted by choice are in italics and would reduce the cast accordingly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character name</th>
<th>No. of rhyming lines if unchanged</th>
<th>Name of child actor</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narrator</td>
<td>12 + 3 + 2 + 4 + 2 + 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandpa Joe (Good reader required, could be adult.) Use page 2 as a cover sheet for the ‘story book’ that Grandpa reads from, ie his script!</td>
<td>1 + 4 + 4 Plus reading nativity story from book</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child 1 (Entirely adaptable to reduce, omit, or share lines between more or less children as required, or for narrator to say instead)</td>
<td>4 + 2 + 2 + 4 + 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child 2</td>
<td>2 + 2 + 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child 3</td>
<td>2 + 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child 4</td>
<td>1 + 2 + 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child 5</td>
<td>1 + 2 + 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Soldier</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>2 (repeated 4 times) + 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innkeeper 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innkeeper 2 (Can omit or be said by inn-keeper 4 if preferred)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innkeeper 3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innkeeper 4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angel</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd 1</td>
<td>1 + 1 + 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd 2 (shepherd 1 can say all shepherds lines if reqd)</td>
<td>3 + 2 + 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd 3</td>
<td>2 + 1 + 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wise man 1</td>
<td>2 + 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wise man 2</td>
<td>2 + 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wise man 3</td>
<td>2 + 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Herod (preferable not to omit)</td>
<td>2 + 4 + 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancing angels</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In summary, the ideal cast would consist of Grandpa Joe (large part), narrator (split if preferred), 19 small speaking parts, 1 none speaking part and some dancing angels, plus or including a choir of singers, and any other walk on parts you choose to include (ie, Santa, Rudolf, donkey, more shepherds, guests in inns etc).

The italics show that the cast can be effectively reduced to 10 as required and still create a tableau scene by the end. This could potentially reduce the script in places (particularly omitting Herod), but in most an option is provided for substituted lines for the narrator so the time taken should be almost the same.

Grandpa’s reading of the story means that the flow of the story is complete regardless of reductions in the speaking parts.

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